

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

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P 171800Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1904

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5288

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2793

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR SP NATO

SUBJ: SPANISH AMBASSADOR'S QUERY RE SPAIN/NATO RELATIONS

1. SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM, MARQUIS DE NERVA, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BRUCE MAY 16 TO INQUIRE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY BASIS FOR ARTICLE IN THE MAY 16 ISSUE OF BRUSSELS PUBLICATION ATLANTIC NEWS, WHICH REPORTED US "WILL BROACH THE QUESTION OF RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO" AT UPCOMING DPC MINISTERIAL.

2. AMBASSADOR BRUCE SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF PLANS TO DISCUSS SPAIN AT DPC MINISTERIAL. BRUCE ADDED HE EXPECTED GENERAL SUBJECT OF SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO WESTERN DEFENSE WOULD PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED DURING JUNE VISIT TO MADRID BY PRESIDENT FORD.

3. SPANISH AMBASSADOR DWELT AT LENGTH ON "VERY SUBSTANTIAL AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIN" HIS COUNTRY COULD MAKE TO NATO. HE ALSO STRESSED STEPS HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN TO LIBERALIZE SPAIN'S POLITICAL LIFE.

4. FOLLOWINGIS TEXT OF RELEVANT PORTION OF MAY 16 ATLANTIC NEWS ARTICLE.  
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BEGIN TEXT:

IT IS ALSO FORECAST THAT THE AMERICANS WILL BROACH THE QUESTION OF RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO. THIS QUESTION IS NOT OFFICIALLY ON THE DPC MINISTERIAL AGENDA, BUT IT IS UNDERSTOOD

IN NATO CIRCLES THAT THE UNITED STATES FEELS OBLIGED TO RAISE THE QUESTION BECAUSE THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS LAYING STRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENTS ON THE MILITARY BASES IN SPAIN. AS "ATLANTIC NEWS" INDICATED IN THE 9 MAY ISSUE, SPAIN IS ASKING THE UNITED STATES TO ADMIT IT TO THE WESTERN EUROPE DEFENCE SYSTEM, OTHERWISE IT WOULD REQUEST THE AMERICANS TO BREAK ALL THE EXISTING TIES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN MILITARY BASES IN SPAIN AND THE NATO MILITARY COMMANDS. IT IS STATED IN NATO CIRCLES THAT IT IS NOT KNOWN EXACTLY WHAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WANTS, SINCE IT SAYS AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT DOES NOT WANT SPAIN TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NATO. IS SPAIN THEN SEEKING ANOTHER FORM OF ASSOCIATION? THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE A VERY CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT THEIR IBERIAN ALLY WANTS. THE PROBLEM IS HOWEVER NOT A NEW ONE, ALTHOUGH IT IS SEEN IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT SINCE THE CHANGES IN PORTUGAL. SPAIN KNOWS THAT THERE IS STRONG OPPOSITION AMONG NATO MEMBERS TO ITS JOINING THE ALLIANCE. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT FEELS FRUSTRATED, BECAUSE IT IS TOLERATING ON ITS TERRITORY AMERICAN BASES WHICH IN AN EMERGENCY WOULD SERVE THE NATO DEFENCE POTENTIAL WITHOUT SPAIN HAVING THE BENEFIT OF A SECURITY GUARANTEE FROM NATO AND WITHOUT ITS PARTICIPATING IN DEFENCE PLANNING. WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN THE AMERICAN MILITARY BASES IN SPAIN AND THE NATO MILITARY COMMANDS SINCE THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF ALLIED FORCES EUROPE IS AT THE SAME TIME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF AMERICAN FORCES IN EUROPE, AND THUS ALSO OF THE AMERICAN FORCES IN SPAIN. IT IS MOREOVER CLEAR THAT AMERICAN AIRCRAFT BASED IN SPAIN CAN BE TRANSFERRED IF REQUIRED TO ANY OTHER BASE IN EUROPE.

END TEXT. BRUCE

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**Subject:** SPANISH AMBASSADOR'S QUERY RE SPAIN/NATO RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR SP NATO  
**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS  
MADRID  
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